

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 16-18 are allowed. Claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 3-5, 7-10, 13, 20 and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In an effort to expedite the prosecution of the present application, Applicant has opted to accept the allowable subject matter to secure early issuance of a patent and reserves its right to pursue the rejected claims in a properly filed continuation application.

To expedite prosecution, claim 11 has been amended to depend from claim 4 as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 3, 4, 7, 9, 13 and 20 have been rewritten in independent form and include all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims from which they originally depended. The remaining claims depend from the amended claims and are thus allowable in view of the current amendment.

Claims 16-18 were allowed. Claims 1, 2, 6, 12, 14, 15, 19 and 22 have been cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice. The remaining claims have been amended or depend from an amended claim as set forth above. In view of the foregoing, claims 3-5, 7-10, 11, 13, 20 and 21 are now in condition for allowance and early notification of the same is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 6, 12, 14, 15, 19 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as allegedly being anticipated by Wetherill (US 780,815). Claim 22 has also been rejected as being anticipated by Lomg (US 3,233,825); Talley (US 3,268,160) and Brimhall et al. (US 4,738,655). Applicant does not acquiesce in these rejections and reserves its right to pursue the subject matter of the rejected claims in one or more continuation


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applications. The current amendment is being filed solely for the purpose of expediting issuance of a patent on the allowed subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,
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